

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Previously amended) An amniotic sac-rupturing device adapted to be secured on the hand of a physician for rupturing the amniotic sac of an expectant mother, comprising:

an elongate, flexible shank having a proximal end and a distal end thereof;

a rearward facing sharp point mounted on the distal end of said shank, suitable for puncturing an amniotic sac;

said shank having sufficient length such that said proximal end rests in the palm of the physician's hand while said point is positioned on the face of a fingertip of the physician's same hand;

a ring connected to said shank, said ring being positioned relative to said shank and adapted to secure said shank to a midsection of the physician's finger.

2. (Previously amended) The amniotic sac-rupturing device of claim 1, wherein said point is formed at a tip of a hook having a shielded cutting edge.

3. (Original) The amniotic sac-rupturing device of claim 2, wherein a leading edge of said hook is substantially flush with a surface of said distal end; and wherein said hook is positioned in a recess in said distal end.

4. (New) The amniotic sac-rupturing device of claim 2, wherein said distal end comprises an upper surface and said cutting edge forms an acute angle relative to said upper surface.

5. (New) The amniotic sac-rupturing device of claim 2, wherein said cutting edge is sharper than said point.

6. (New) The amniotic sac-rupturing device of claim 3, wherein said distal end is sufficiently flexible to permit said point to be flared slightly out of said recess.

7. (New) The amniotic sac-rupturing device of claim 3, wherein said recess comprises an opening through said distal end.

8. (New) The amniotic sac-rupturing device of claim 1, wherein said shank is relatively flat and thin.

9. (New) The amniotic sac-rupturing device of claim 1, wherein said proximal end of said shank comprises a flared base handle.

10. (New) The amniotic sac-rupturing device of claim 9, wherein said base handle comprises at least one ridge engageable on the palm of the physician's hand.

11. (New) The amniotic sac-rupturing device of claim 1, wherein said shank has an arcuate shape in an unflexed state.

12. (New) The amniotic sac-rupturing device of claim 1, further comprising at least a portion of a glove to which said shank is attached.

13. (New) An amniotic sac-rupturing device adapted to be secured on the hand of a physician for rupturing the amniotic sac of an expectant mother, comprising:

an elongate, flexible shank having a proximal end and a distal end;

said proximal end having a flared base handle;

said distal end having an opening therethrough and a rearward facing sharp point suitable for puncturing an amniotic sac;

said point being formed at a tip of a hook having a shielded cutting edge;

said hook being recessed in said opening and having a leading edge that is substantially flush with a surface of said distal end;

said shank being relatively flat and thin and having an arcuate shape in an unflexed condition;

said shank having sufficient length such that said proximal end rests in the palm of the physician's hand while said distal end is positioned on the face of a fingertip of the physician's same hand;

said opening allowing the physician to feel anatomical structures with the face of the fingertip;

said distal end being sufficiently flexible to permit said point to be flared slightly out of said opening;

a ring connected to said shank, said ring being positioned relative to said shank and adapted to secure said shank to a midsection of the physician's finger.

14. (New) The amniotic sac-rupturing device of claim 13, wherein said opening comprises an oval shaped opening.

15. (New) The amniotic sac-rupturing device of claim 13, wherein said base handle comprises at least one ridge engageable on the palm of the physician's hand.

16. (New) An amniotic sac-rupturing device adapted to be secured on the hand of a physician for rupturing the amniotic sac of an expectant mother, comprising:

a glove-like member wearable on the physician's hand; and

a fingertip member secured to said glove-like member, said fingertip member having a rearward facing sharp point suitable for puncturing an amniotic sac;

said point being positionable on the face of a fingertip of the physician's hand when said glove-like member is placed on the physician's hand.

17. (New) The amniotic sac-rupturing device of claim 16, wherein said point is formed at a tip of a hook having a shielded cutting edge.

18. (New) The amniotic sac-rupturing device of claim 17, wherein a leading edge of said hook is substantially flush with a surface of said fingertip member, and wherein said hook is positioned in a recess in said fingertip member.

19. (New) The amniotic sac-rupturing device of claim 18, wherein said fingertip member is sufficiently flexible to permit said point to be flared slightly out of said recess.

20. (New) The amniotic sac-rupturing device of claim 18, wherein said recess comprises an opening through said fingertip member, said opening allowing the physician to feel anatomical structures with the face of the fingertip.

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